IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, et al.,))
Plaintiffs,))
ν.) Case No. 4:05-cv-00329-GKF-SAJ
TYSON FOODS, INC., et al.,)
Defendants.) _) _)

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE TO THE COURT ON THEIR JOINT MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO PRODUCE EXPERT REPORTS [DKT #1722]

On July 17, 2008, Magistrate Judge Joyner heard oral argument on Defendants' Joint Motion for Additional Time to Produce Expert Reports (Dkt #1722) (the "Motion"). Judge Joyner indicated that an extension of some period would be granted in response to the Motion and that the Court would issue an appropriate order. Defendants respectfully submit this notice to alert the Court to recent developments that bear upon that order.

Dr. John Connolly is one of defendants' principal experts. Dr. Connolly is the President and Senior Managing Engineer of Quantitative Environmental Analysis, LLC. Dr. Connolly is an environmental engineer by training. He has nationally-recognized expertise in the areas of contaminant transport, field sampling, ecosystem processes and ecotoxicology. His professional work has involved exposure assessment and risk assessment problems related to surface water and groundwater contamination problems, including evaluating remedial options.

In this case, Dr. Connolly's role also includes expert coordination. Dr. Connolly works with many of Defendants' experts to ensure appropriate scientific collaboration on the issues

discussed in Plaintiffs' expert reports. Defendants anticipate that Dr. Connolly will assist the Court with understanding the larger scientific analysis of which each defense experts' work is a part.

Dr. Connolly's wife was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Her physicians do not yet know the exact scope and nature of the cancer, but it appears that she has at least two tumors and will need immediate surgery to be followed by chemotherapy. Her first surgery has been scheduled for August 8. Her immediate surgery or surgeries will involve a full mastectomy and sentinel node biopsy with possible removal of all lymph nodes and the initiation of reconstruction.

Dr. Connolly has invested substantial time in this case, and believes he can fully accomplish the work necessary to complete his expert report and fulfill his coordination role. However, to allow Dr. Connolly time to help his wife during the next few months as she undergoes treatment, Defendants request that the Court grant Dr. Connolly a brief extension for his expert report beyond the general extension Defendants have requested. In the Motion and their reply, Defendants noted that some experts (including Dr. Alex Horne, Dr. Tim Sullivan, and Defendants' aquatic ecologists) need to submit their expert reports after Dr. Bierman finishes analyzing Plaintiffs' models. *See* Chadwick Decl. at ¶ 13 (Dkt #1722 Exh. 10); Sullivan Decl. at ¶¶ 7-8 (Dkt #1722 Exh. 11); Horne Decl. at ¶¶ 7-10 (Dkt #1722 Exh. 12). Defendants requested that the reports of Drs. Horne and Sullivan be due February 5, 2009. In light of the events in Dr. Connolly's family, Defendants request that his expert report be due at the same time as the reports of Drs. Sullivan and Horne. If the Court grants a shorter time than Defendants requested for these experts, but nevertheless agrees that Defendants' expert reports should not all be due at

the same time, Defendants suggest that Dr. Connolly's report be placed with the penultimate or final deadline for defense reports.

On July 29, Defendants conferred with Plaintiffs' counsel David Page on whether Plaintiffs could agree to grant Dr. Connolly additional time. Plaintiffs agreed that the due date for Dr. Connolly's report should be extended to October 14 (the date of the general extension Defendants have requested for all defense experts), but could not agree to a further extension without more information and details about Dr. Connolly's wife's treatment. Those details are not yet medically available.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: ____/s/Jay T. Jorgensen_

Thomas C. Green Mark D. Hopson Jay T. Jorgensen Timothy K. Webster Gordon D. Todd SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

1501 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-1401 Telephone: (202) 736-8000

Facsimile: (202) 736-8711

-and-

Robert W. George Vice President & Associate General Counsel Tyson Foods, Inc. 2210 West Oaklawn Drive Springdale, Ark. 72764

Telephone: (479) 290-4076 Facsimile: (479) 290-7967

-and-

Michael R. Bond KUTAK ROCK LLP

The Three Sisters Building 214 West Dickson Street Fayetteville, AR 72701-5221 Telephone: (479) 973-4200

Facsimile: (479) 973-0007

-and-

Stephen L. Jantzen, OBA # 16247 Patrick M. Ryan, OBA # 7864 RYAN, WHALEY & COLDIRON, P.C. 119 N. Robinson 900 Robinson Renaissance Oklahoma City, OK 73102 Telephone: (405) 239-6040 Facsimile: (405) 239-6766

ATTORNEYS FOR TYSON FOODS, INC.; TYSON POULTRY, INC.; TYSON CHICKEN, INC; AND COBB-VANTRESS, INC.

BY:____/s/_James M. Graves__

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

Woodson W. Bassett III

Gary V. Weeks

James M. Graves

Paul E. Thompson, Jr.

BASSETT LAW FIRM

P.O. Box 3618

Fayetteville, AR 72702-3618

Telephone: (479) 521-9996 Facsimile: (479) 521-9600

-and-

Randall E. Rose, OBA #7753

George W. Owens

OWENS LAW FIRM, P.C.

234 W. 13th Street

Tulsa, OK 74119

Telephone: (918) 587-0021 Facsimile: (918) 587-6111

ATTORNEYS FOR GEORGE'S, INC. AND

GEORGE'S FARMS, INC.

BY: <u>/s/A. Scott McDaniel</u>

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

A. Scott McDaniel, OBA #16460 Nicole M. Longwell, OBA #18771 Philip D. Hixon, OBA #19121 McDaniel, Hixon, Longwell & Acord 320 South Boston Ave., Ste. 700

Tulsa, OK 74103

Telephone: (918) 382-9200 Facsimile: (918) 382-9282

-and-

Sherry P. Bartley
MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG,
GATES & WOODYARD, PLLC
425 W. Capitol Avenue, Suite 1800
Little Rock, AR 72201

Telephone: (501) 688-8800 Facsimile: (501) 688-8807

ATTORNEYS FOR PETERSON FARMS, INC.

BY: /s/ R. Thomas Lay

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

R. Thomas Lay, OBA #5297 KERR, IRVINE, RHODES & ABLES 201 Robert S. Kerr Ave., Suite 600 Oklahoma City, OK 73102 Telephone: (405) 272-9221

Facsimile: (405) 236-3121

-and-

Jennifer S. Griffin LATHROP & GAGE, L.C. 314 East High Street Jefferson City, MO 65101 Telephone: (573) 893-4336 Facsimile: (573) 893-5398

ATTORNEYS FOR WILLOW BROOK FOODS, INC.

BY:__/s/ John R. Elrod__

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

John R. Elrod Vicki Bronson, OBA #20574 P. Joshua Wisley CONNER & WINTERS, L.L.P. 211 East Dickson Street Fayetteville, AR 72701 Telephone: (479) 582-5711

Facsimile: (479) 587-1426

-and-

Bruce W. Freeman CONNER & WINTERS, L.L.P. 1 Williams Center, Room 4000 Tulsa, OK 74172 Telephone: (918) 586-5711

Telephone: (918) 586-5711 Facsimile: (918) 586-8547

ATTORNEYS FOR SIMMONS FOODS, INC.

BY:_/s/Robert P. Redemann____

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

Robert P. Redemann, OBA #7454 Lawrence W. Zeringue, OBA #9996 David C. Senger, OBA #18830 PERRINE, MCGIVERN, REDEMANN, REID, BERRY & TAYLOR, P.L.L.C.

REID, BERRY & TAYLOR, P.L.L.C. Post Office Box 1710

Tulsa, OK 74101-1710 Telephone: (918) 382-1400 Facsimile: (918) 382-1499

-and-

Robert E. Sanders Stephen Williams YOUNG WILLIAMS P.A. Post Office Box 23059

Jackson, MS 39225-3059 Telephone: (601) 948-6100 Facsimile: (601) 355-6136

ATTORNEYS FOR CAL-MAINE FARMS, INC. AND CAL-MAINE FOODS, INC.

BY:____/s/John H. Tucker___

(SIGNED BY FILING ATTORNEY WITH PERMISSION)

John H. Tucker, OBA #9110 Theresa Noble Hill, OBA #19119 RHODES, HIERONYMUS, JONES, TUCKER & GABLE, PLLC 100 W. Fifth Street, Suite 400 (74103-4287)

P.O. Box 21100 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74121-1100

Telephone: (918) 582-1173 Facsimile: (918) 592-3390

-and-

Delmar R. Ehrich
Bruce Jones
Dara D. Mann
Krisann C. Kleibacker Lee
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Telephone: (612) 766-7000 Facsimile: (612) 766-1600

ATTORNEYS FOR CARGILL, INC. AND CARGILL TURKEY PRODUCTION, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 30th day of July, 2008, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the following ECF registrants:

W. A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General Kelly Hunter Burch, Assistant Attorney General J. Trevor Hammons, Assistant Attorney General Tina L. Izadi, Assistant Attorney General Daniel Lennington, Assistant Attorney General drew_edmondson@oag.state.ok.us kelly_burch@oag.state.ok.us trevor_hammons@oag.state.ok.us tina_izadi@oag.state.ok.us daniel.lennington@oak.ok.gov

Douglas Allen Wilson Melvin David Riggs Richard T. Garren Sharon K. Weaver David P. Page Riggs Abney Neal Turpen Orbison & Lewis doug_wilson@riggsabney.com, driggs@riggsabney.com rgarren@riggsabney.com sweaver@riggsabney.com dpage@riggsabney.com

Robert Allen Nance

Dorothy Sharon Gentry Riggs Abney rnance@riggsabney.com sgentry@riggsabney.com

J. Randall Miller

rmiller@mkblaw.net

Louis W. Bullock

lbullock@bullock-blakemore.com

Michael G. Rousseau Jonathan D. Orent Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick Motley Rice LLC mrousseau@motleyrice.com jorent@motleyrice.com ffitzpatrick@motleyrice.com

Elizabeth C. Ward Frederick C. Baker William H. Narwold Lee M. Heath Elizabeth Claire Xidis

lward@motleyrice.com fbaker@motleyrice.com bnarwold@motleyrice.com lheath@motleyrice.com cxidis@motleyrice.com imoll@motleyrice.com

Ingrid L. Moll Motley Rice

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

Stephen L. Jantzen
Patrick M. Ryan
Paula M. Buchwald
Ryan, Whaley & Coldiron, P.C.

sjantzen@ryanwhaley.com pryan@ryanwhaley.com pbuchwald@ryanwhaley.com

Mark D. Hopson Jay Thomas Jorgensen Timothy K. Webster Sidley Austin LLP mhopson@sidley.com jjorgensen@sidley.com twebster@sidley.com Robert W. George Michael R. Bond Erin Walker Thompson Kutak Rock LLP robert.george@kutakrock.com michael.bond@kutakrock.com erin.thompson@kutakrock.com

COUNSEL FOR TYSON FOODS, INC., TYSON POULTRY, INC., TYSON CHICKEN, INC.; AND COBB-VANTRESS, INC.

R. Thomas Lay rtl@kiralaw.com

Kerr, Irvine, Rhodes & Ables

Jennifer S. Griffin jgriffin@lathropgage.com

Lathrop & Gage, L.C.

COUNSEL FOR WILLOW BROOK FOODS, INC.

Robert P. Redemann rredemann@pmrlaw.net
Lawrence W. Zeringue lzeringue@pmrlaw.net
David C .Senger dsenger@pmrlaw.net

Perrine, McGivern, Redemann, Reid, Berry & Taylor, PLLC

Robert E. Sanders rsanders@youngwilliams.com
E. Stephen Williams steve.williams@youngwilliams.com

Young Williams P.A.

COUNSEL FOR CAL-MAINE FOODS, INC. AND CAL-MAINE FARMS, INC.

George W. Owens gwo@owenslawfirmpc.com Randall E. Rose gwo@owenslawfirmpc.com

The Owens Law Firm, P.C.

James M. Graves jgraves@bassettlawfirm.com

Gary V. Weeks

Paul E. Thompson, Jr. pthompson@bassettlawfirm.com
Woody Bassett
Jennifer E. Lloyd pthompson@bassettlawfirm.com
jlloyd@bassettlawfirm.com

Bassett Law Firm

COUNSEL FOR GEORGE'S INC. AND GEORGE'S FARMS, INC.

John R. Elrodjelrod@cwlaw.comVicki Bronsonvbronson@cwlaw.comP. Joshua Wisleyjwisley@cwlaw.com

Conner & Winters, P.C.

Bruce W. Freeman bfreeman@cwlaw.com

D. Richard Funk

Conner & Winters, LLLP

COUNSEL FOR SIMMONS FOODS, INC.

John H. Tuckerjtuckercourts@rhodesokla.comLeslie J. Southerlandljsoutherlandcourts@rhodesokla.com

Colin H. Tucker chtucker@rhodesokla.com
Theresa Noble Hill thillcourts@rhodesokla.com

Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones, Tucker & Gable

Terry W. West terry@thewesetlawfirm.com

The West Law Firm

Delmar R. Ehrich dehrich@faegre.com
Bruce Jones bjones@faegre.com
Krisann Kleibacker Lee kklee@baegre.com
Dara D. Mann dmann@faegre.com
Todd P. Walker twalker@faegre.com

Faegre & Benson LLP

COUNSEL FOR CARGILL, INC. AND CARGILL TURKEY PRODUCTION, LLC

Michael D. Graves mgraves@hallestill.com
D. Kenyon Williams, Jr. kwilliams@hallestill.com

COUNSEL FOR POULTRY GROWERS

William B. Federman wfederman@aol.com Jennifer F. Sherrill jfs@federmanlaw.com

Federman & Sherwood

Charles Moulton charles.moulton@arkansag.gov Jim DePriest jim.depriest@arkansasag.gov

Office of the Attorney General

COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND THE ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Carrie Griffith griffithlawoffice@yahoo.com

COUNSEL FOR RAYMOND C. AND SHANNON ANDERSON

Gary S. Chilton gchilton@hcdattorneys.com

Holladay, Chilton & Degiusti, PLLC

Victor E. Schwartzvschwartz@shb.comCary Silvermancsilverman@shb.com

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP

Robin S. Conrad rconrad@uschamber.com

National Chamber Litigation Center, Inc.

COUNSEL FOR AMICI CURIAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE U.S. AND THE AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION

Richard C. Ford fordr@crowedunlevy.com
LeAnne Burnett burnettl@crowedunlevy.com

Crowe & Dunlevy

COUNSEL FOR AMICUS CURIAE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, INC.

M. Richard Mullins richard.mullins@mcafeetaft.com

McAfee & Taft

James D. Bradbury jim@bradburycounsel.com

James D. Bradbury, PLLC

COUNSEL FOR AMICI CURIAE TEXAS FARM BUREAU, TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION, TEXAS PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DAIRYMEN

I also hereby certify that I served the attached documents by United States Postal Service, proper postage paid, on the following who are not registered participants of the ECF System:

C. Miles Tolbert
Secretary of the Environment
State of Oklahoma
3800 North Classen
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

Dustin McDaniel
Justin Allen
Office of the Attorney General of Arkansas
323 Center Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201-2610
COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS AND THE ARKANSAS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

/s/ Jay T. Jorgensen

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